

HB 448 -- Licensure of Hearing Instrument Specialists

Sponsor: Webb

This bill changes the laws regarding the licensure of hearing instrument specialists. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Specifies that whenever another state or jurisdiction has requirements or a program equivalent to or higher than those of Missouri for determining whether an applicant is qualified to engage in the practice of fitting hearing instruments, the Board of Examiners for Hearing Instrument Specialists within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration must issue a license to an applicant who holds a current, unsuspended, and unrevoked certificate or license in another state or jurisdiction. Currently, whenever the board determines that another state or jurisdiction has requirements or a program equivalent to or higher than those of Missouri for determining whether an applicant is qualified to engage in the practice of fitting hearing instruments, the board must issue a license to the applicant who holds a current, unsuspended, and unrevoked certificate or license if that jurisdiction extends like privileges for reciprocal licensing or certification to persons licensed by this state with similar qualifications;

(2) Allows, beginning January 1, 2014, an applicant for a hearing instrument specialist license or a hearing instrument specialist-in-training permit to be issued a license or permit if he or she has satisfactorily completed a course of instruction and training prescribed by the board;

(3) Requires, beginning January 1, 2015, an applicant for a hearing instrument specialist license or a hearing instrument specialist-in-training permit to hold an associate's degree or higher in hearing instrument sciences, hold a master's or doctoral degree in audiology from a state or regionally accredited institution, or have satisfactorily completed a course of instruction and training prescribed by the board; and

(4) Requires the board to promulgate reasonable standards and rules for the evaluation of applicants for the purposes of determining the course of instruction required as an alternative to the associate degree education requirement for licensure.